

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method to distribute policies, comprising:
transmitting one of an identification (ID) assigned to a policy template or the policy template associated with each policy to an enforcement point or selected enforcement points for enforcement; and
transmitting one set of parameters to be used in each policy template to the enforcement point or selected enforcement points.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, binding the parameters to each associated policy template.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each policy template.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting a query in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not present at the enforcement point or any of the selected enforcement points.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point or any of the selected enforcement points in response to a

query from the enforcement point or any of the selected enforcement points including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.

- [c6] 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to transmit the query and any policy templates.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising compressing each policy template before transmitting to the enforcement point or any of the selected enforcement points.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising forming each policy template in a structured document.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising forming each policy template in a mark-up language.
- [c10] 10. A method to distribute policies, comprising:
 - defining a policy template associated with each policy;
 - assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template;
 - storing each policy template and assigned ID; and
 - transmitting one of the assigned ID or the policy template to an enforcement point for each policy to be enforced by the enforcement point.

- [c11] 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising identifying at least one set of parameters to be associated with each policy template.
- [c12] 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting the one set of parameters to be used in each associated policy template for enforcement to the enforcement point.
- [c13] 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising binding the parameters to each associated template.
- [c14] 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each policy template.
- [c15] 15. The method of claim 11, further comprising storing each one of the at least one set of parameters by name and type.
- [c16] 16. The method of claim 10, further comprising querying a repository in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not present at the enforcement point.
- [c17] 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point in response to a query from the enforcement point including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.

- [c18] 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to query the repository and transmit any templates.
- [c19] 19. The method of claim 17, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.
- [c20] 20. The method of claim 10, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.
- [c21] 21. The method of claim 10, further comprising forming each policy template in a structured document.
- [c22] 22. The method of claim 10, further comprising forming each policy template in a mark-up language.
- [c23] 23. A system to distribute policies, comprising:
 - a policy administrator to define policy templates and to transmit one of an identification (ID) assigned to a policy template or the policy template associated with each policy to be enforced; and
 - an enforcement point to receive the ID assigned to the policy template or the policy template for each policy and to enforce each policy.
- [c24] 24. The system of claim 23, wherein each policy admin-

istrator comprises a processor to transmit one of the ID assigned to the policy template or the policy template associated with each policy.

- [c25] 25. The system of claim 23, wherein each enforcement point comprises:
 - a processor to receive the IDs assigned to each policy template; and
 - a data source to store each policy template for enforcement and assigned ID, wherein the processor forms and transmits a query in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not present in the data source.
- [c26] 26. The system of claim 23, further comprising a repository to store each policy template and assigned ID.
- [c27] 27. The system of claim 26, further comprising a server to interface between each policy administrator, each enforcement point and the repository.
- [c28] 28. A system to distribute policies, comprising:
 - means for defining a policy template associated with each policy;
 - means for assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template;
 - a repository to store each policy template and assigned

ID;
means for transmitting one of the assigned ID or the policy template for each policy to be enforced; and an enforcement point to receive the assigned ID or the policy template for each policy and to enforce each policy.

- [c29] 29. The system of claim 28, further comprising means for binding parameters to each associated policy template for enforcement.
- [c30] 30. The system of claim 28, further comprising means for transmitting a query in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not present at the enforcement point.
- [c31] 31. The system of claim 28, further comprising means for transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point in response to a query from the enforcement point including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.
- [c32] 32. The system of claim 31, further comprising means for applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to transmit the query and any policy templates.
- [c33] 33. The system of claim 31, further comprising means for compressing each policy template before transmission to the enforcement point.

- [c34] 34. The system of claim 28, further comprising means for forming each policy template in a structured document.
- [c35] 35. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising:
 - defining a policy template associated with each policy;
 - assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template; and
 - transmitting one of the assigned ID or the policy template to an enforcement point for each policy to be enforced by the enforcement point.
- [c36] 36. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising:
 - identifying at least one set of parameters to be associated with each policy template; and
 - transmitting the one set of parameters to be used in each associated policy template for enforcement to the enforcement point.
- [c37] 37. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising binding the parameters to

each associated template.

- [c38] 38. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each policy template.
- [c39] 39. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising querying a repository in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not present at the enforcement point.
- [c40] 40. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point in response to a query from the enforcement point including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.
- [c41] 41. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 40, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to query the repository and to transmit any policy templates.
- [c42] 42. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of

claim 35, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.

- [c43] 43. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising forming each policy template in a structured document.
- [c44] 44. The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising forming each policy template in a mark-up language.